

**PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE**  
**POST-PENTECOST I 2021**  
**Covering the period from Pentecost Sunday until August 31.**

**SECTION ONE: READING AND REFLECTION**

**Theme: The Rule of Benedict in History**

Less than fifty years after Benedict's death, Pope St. Gregory the Great wrote a life of Benedict "based upon testimony provided by men who had known Benedict personally". Gregory relates that Benedict wrote a Rule for monks which could be no other than the Rule known throughout the Western Church under Benedict's name and handed down from the earliest times in countless manuscripts. It was taken to England by Augustine (known to us as Augustine of Canterbury) and his companions and was subsequently carried back to the Continent by English Missionaries." (Editors of RB 80, pages 69 and 70), "St. Benedict and his Rule: the state of the question."

What follows here is crucial:

Benedict was well aware of the different forms of monastic life that had existed in East and West and he drew upon these different forms. However, Benedict saw that a new beginning was needed 'to meet the needs of the times'.

Because of this awareness:

- he aimed at moderation
- he emphasized a stable community life.
- he encouraged civilizing work, thus assuring that the institute he founded would become a powerful force in fashioning a Christian Europe out of the ruins of the barbaric invasions. (summarized from RB 80). The monasteries he founded did just that.

A new approach:

Some of us have been with Benedict's Rule since the early 1990s when we became Oblates. Now, over thirty years later, it has been with us as a faithful companion and guide as we have faced more than one crisis and remained anchored in Christ through "prayer and holy reading." (From the ritual for the Ceremony of Oblation).

The big question is: Has the RB, as a lived Rule, met for me or for us, the needs of our times?

What characterizes our times?

What have we been challenged to confront?

Take time to answer these questions, using your prayer journal or sharing your answers on our Facebook page. This is a chance to share your depth with other Oblates.

The editors of RB 80 say "the RB manifests a certain liberalism and humanism in the pristine sense of those terms. Liberalism in this sense means broad-mindedness, and humanism is concerned with the needs, well-being and interests of people.

The author is radical in his understanding of human nature, both its grandeur and its weakness, respects it and wants to facilitate its organic (unforced) growth. He knows that human persons and their actions are of infinite variety and complexity and that individual problems require individual solutions. No enforced growth. Growth takes time." (Note your response).

## **SECTION TWO: FURTHER READING AND REFLECTION**

“The Love of Learning and the Desire for God” was the title of a book by Jean Leclercq, osb, published first in 1961. A second edition was published in 1974 and a third edition in 1982. It has since been reprinted in 1985, 1988 and 1993. It is a study of monastic culture by one of the greatest Benedictine scholars the monastic world has ever known. Some of the chapters covered are: The Conversion of St. Benedict, St. Gregory - Doctor of Spiritual Desire, Cult and Culture, Sacred Learning, The Ancient Traditional Spirituality, Liberal Studies, Monastic Theology, the Poem of the Liturgy, Literature and the Mystical Life.

If you have access to a monastic or theological library, it is a valuable book to take for lectio Divina. I have read it five times since I entered monastic life almost 40 years ago. If you want a copy, ebay would be probably the only avenue. It was originally printed by Fordham University Press, U.S.A.

## **SECTION THREE: ABOUT THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT**

The Rule of Benedict is a Christo-centric Rule. The 1980 (RB 80) edition with its historical introduction, and then the English and Latin throughout the Rule is a feast for those of us who want to dig deeper into the wisdom of our Rule.

Br. Hugh Feiss puts before us essential monastic wisdom when he says that: “medieval monks spoke of the cloister using metaphors of heaven, of paradise, of the garden enclosed in the Song of Songs. In this, they echoed the longing Benedict had for order and predictability in a world that was constantly threatened by chaos. His own career was evidence enough of the tumultuous times in which he lived.” (Fr. Hugh Feiss, Essential Monastic Wisdom, page 6). Does this ring a bell for us? Do we long for order again after the International Covid chaos? We live in tumultuous times, just as Benedict did. We settle down knowing there have not been any cases of Covid for 48 hours, then it strikes again. We watch the unspeakable chaos in India, and now a different kind of chaos in the Holy Land. Our times are just as chaotic as those of Benedict.

## **SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY**

One of the entries in the obituaries this time is Sr. Mary Paul Fairland. She was born in London on 15 September 1845. She entered our community on 10 July 1883. She made profession of vows on 28 November 1887. Her family came to Australia when she was seven years old, and one of her brothers later rose to be a judge in New South Wales. She was a convert to Catholicism and a late vocation. A late vocation in those times would be any one who entered in their late 20s or 30s. Both of her decisions cost her much in terms of family relationships. She is described as being “skilled at needle-work” and was involved in the making of trousseaus and perhaps, occasionally, vestments. She was known as having a gentle and genial disposition and was remembered fondly in the community after her death. She died on 16 June, 1920.

## **SECTION FIVE: LITURGY**

### **MAY**

23: Pentecost Sunday

24: Our Lady Help of Christians

25: St. Bede of England

26; St. Philip Neri

- 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 30: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A moveable feast – a different date each year).

## **JUNE**

- 01: St. Justin Martyr - Memorial
- 03: St Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs - Memorial
- 05: St. Boniface Memorial
- 06: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). A moveable feast.
- 11: The Sacred Heart of Jesus. S. (St. Barnabas is not celebrated this year. I am of the opinion that it should be transferred to the next available day. After all, what a mess Paul may have made, without the friendship of Barnabas!)
- 12: The Immaculate Heart of Mary (Patronal feast for the Diocese of Wollongong) - Solemnity
- 13: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 19: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Solemnity
- 20: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga - Memorial
- 22: Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More - Memorial
- 23: The Benedictine nuns of England
- 24: The Nativity of St. John The Baptist - Solemnity
- 27: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 28: St. Irenaeus - Memorial
- 29: Sts. Peter and Paul - Solemnity

## **JULY:**

- 03: St. Thomas - Feast
- 04: 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Thomas Apostle - Feast
- 11: St. Benedict Feast This is usually transferred when it falls on a Sunday - probably to Monday
- 11: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- 15: St. Bonaventure - Memorial
- 16: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - Optional Memorial
- 18: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 22: St. Mary Magdalen - Feast
- 25: St. James (Not celebrated this year).
- 25: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 26: Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Memorial
- 29: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus - Memorial
- 31: St. Ignatius of Loyola - Memorial

## **AUGUST:**

- 01: 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- 03: St. Dominic - Memorial
- 04: St. John Vianney- M.
- 06: Transfiguration of the Lord - F.
- 08: St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Solemnity. As Australia's National Patronal Feast and the feast of our first canonized saint, the Liturgy takes precedence over Sunday.
- 09: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross - Martyr. (Edith Stein).
- 10: St. Lawrence - Feast
- 11: St. Clare - M.
- 14: St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe - Memorial Vespers I of the Assumption of Our Lady.
- 15 - Solemnity of The Assumption of Our Lady. This is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. It takes precedence over the Sunday Liturgy.

- 16: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 20: St. Bernard - Memorial
- 21: St. Pius X - Memorial
- 22: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 24: St. Bartholomew - Feast
- 27: St. Monica - Memorial
- 28: St. Augustine - Memorial
- 29: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, The Passion of St. John the Baptist is not celebrated this year.
- 31: St. Aidan of Lindisfarne - Memorial

## SECTION SIX - YOUR COMMUNITY

**Let us pray for Oblates** who are making the final part of their earthly journey. A significant number of oblates have gone into nursing home care. Some can't receive our Pax booklet anymore.

**Sr. Naomie Varnakulasingham's father**, Robert, died at the beginning of March. Pray for her please and for her family.

**Sr. Clare Gamble** had a fall on the morning of 1 March. She sustained fractures in the back of her neck and bleeding on the brain. Though Sr. Clare is 92, we appreciate her as a praying and working member of our community. Before this fall, she looked after our laundry, the cleaning and maintenance of our washing machines. She was also the one who photocopied your "Pax" Booklets, for the last twenty or more years. Sr. Clare is still in hospital, waiting for the time when an x-ray of her neck is possible. She has already undergone surgery for the bleed on the brain. She has suffered intense pain. Please remember her in your prayer.

**There are Oblates in formation, waiting for a ceremony.** The lock-down for almost 18 months has prevented a ceremony. The weekend of 29-31 October is now an **Oblate Retreat Weekend**, and there will be an oblate ceremony at Mass on Saturday 30 October (God and Covid willing). Those who are making oblation need to contact me again: [oblatedirector@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:oblatedirector@jamberooabbey.org.au). Please let me know what "name" you are taking on this occasion. You will need to purchase an oblate medal, and put it on a chain or a ribbon so that the Abbess can put it over your head during the ceremony. Medals can be purchased from Sr. Joanna at this email address: [abbeybookscraft@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:abbeybookscraft@jamberooabbey.org.au)

### **WE WISH YOU THE RICHEST BLESSING OF PEACE ON YOUR FEAST DAY**

May 24: Amanda Mary Hickey

May 25: Heather Bede Thompson, Alan Bede Hickey, Patrick Bede Quinn, Antonio Bede Zaragoza. Fr. Kevin Bede Walsh, Cheryl Bede Townsend.

May 30: Brenda Joan Payne

May 31: Mary Elizabeth Locke, Jo Elizabeth Wickens, Sr. Elizabeth Funder

June 5: Rev. Cameron Boniface Freese; Jeff Boniface Smart and Arno Boniface Struzina.

June 11: Brian Barnabas McKinlay, Jan Barnabas Trevenen and Rosalie Barnabas Jacques.

June 12: Abbess Hilda Scott (St.Hilda of Whitby).

June 13: Therese Anthony Harding

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

June 22: Katherine Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Thomas More Whetham.

June 23: Frances Mildred Cormack.

June 24: Carmen Giovanna Xuereb

June 30: Annette Cuthbert Dawes  
 July 03: Douglas Thomas Fitzpatrick  
 July 11: Ian Benedict Macdonald, Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Ken Benedict Press, Patrick Benedict Sleight, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Sonia Benedicta Aquilina, Russell Benedict Collins, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Geraldine Mary Benedicta Doyle, June Benedicta Jenkins, Garry Benedict Gleeson, Ellen Benedicta Woods, Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Benedetta Marina di Mattia, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor, Chantal Mary Benedicte Jacquier, Patricia Benedict Thomas, Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Matthew Benedict Ransom, Ivan Benedict Fitz, Claire Benedict Lanigan, Debra Benedicta Verbeek, Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster, Felicity Benedict Giles  
 July 14: Dorothy (Veronica Guiliani) Touzell  
 July 15: Pamela Henry Herrick (St. Henry II, Patron of Oblates)  
 July 16: Fr. Paul Gurr O.Carm. (Abbey Chaplain)  
 July 20: Valerie Margaret Johnson (Margaret of Antioch).  
 July 22: Sr. Magdalen Mather, Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens, Kerri Mary Magdalen Olson, Jeanette Magdalen Murray, Pamela Magdalen Hassell. Marilyn Mary Magdalen Caruana, Phyllis Magdalen Rodriguez, Judith Mary Magdalen Pickering, and Reshika (Mary Magdalene) Fernando  
 July 25: Peter James Lambert-Brown  
 July 26: Daphne Anne Spelter  
 July 29: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen, Deborah Martha Pike and Wendy Mary Young, Christine (Mary of Bethany) Gilbert  
 July 31: Fr. John (Ignatius) Anderson.  
 August 8: Carol (Mary of the Cross) Xuereb  
 August 9: Anne (Edith) Fry, and Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce.  
 August 11: Sr. Clare Gamble, Shirley Clare Basham, Rev. Ann Clare Dittmar McCollim and Marie Clare Manning  
 August 15: Sr. Maria Frances Slade,  
 August 20: Bernard Quinn, Fr. Henry Bernard Byrne, Peter Bernard Sheehan, Lee Ann Bernardine Wein, Dean Bernard Godric Piryak  
 August 23: Victoria Rose Sultana  
 August 27: Colleen Monica Fletcher  
 August 28: Juan Augustine Lorente, and Monica Augustina Rodriguez, Colleen Augustine Cashman, Monica Augustine Hunt  
 August 31: Leslie Aidan Whittet.

**LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AS OUR ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:**

May 24: Ivan Benedict Fitz  
 May 25: Phyllis Magdalen Rodrigues, Clare Therese Sydenham, Jeanette Therese McHugh, Phillip John Wilson.  
 May 30: Wendy Godric Orrock.  
 June 1: Fr. Mark Podesta.  
 June 3: Matthew Benedict Ransom  
 June 6: Lorraine Mary Irmina Stilo  
 June 8: Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Judith Catherine Brown, Helene Miriam Mackey, Rev. Catherine Julian Eaton.  
 June 11: Bernadette Scholastica Packer. Bernadette is one of this world's courageous people. She is a music teacher from Albury, and travels to the Abbey, by plane and train, with her faithful guide dog. I gave him a small medal of St. Benedict so that he will be safe from harm.

June 12: Christine Gertrud Phillips, Lenka Gregoria Hill, Catherine Frances Turek, Peter Damian McElhone, Alfred Anselm Breznik, Rhonda Scholastica Kinsela, Debi Gertrud Russell, Isabel Frances Vicary and Kevin Francis Vicary.

June 14: Jean Julian Reid

June 14: Bishop Brian Gregory Mascord

June 22: Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor and Christina Maria de Angelo Camron.

June 23: Aaron Placid McElhone, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Carmen Giovanna Xuereb and Josephine Antonia Petrie.

June 24: Libby Therese Denny, Catherine Scholastica Ransom

June 25: Varcha Giles Sidwell, Elizabeth Lioba Anderson, Bernadette Mary Maher, Paul Godric Griffiths, Colleen Monica Fletcher, Nancy Hilda Sage

June 28: Sonia Veronica Pleines

June 29: Sr. Julian Barbara Garwood

June 30: Rev. Nigel Thomas Wright

**Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:** Anthony Anselm Tarleton, Ewa Mary Grajewska.

July 1: Sarah Louise Emmanuelle Kirsop and Rev. Sharon Lioba Baird.

July 9: Pam Magdalen Hassell

July 10: Lee Ann Bernardine Wein

July 11: Rev. Ian Patrick Crooks and Margaret Julian Crooks. Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Ellen Benedicta Woods

July 12: Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens

July 18: Melanie Syncretica Phillips

July 19: Susan Nano Dickson, and Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster.

July 22: Kerri Mary Magdalen Olson

July 25: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen

July 26: Anne Sophia Norrie and Denis Nicols

August 6: Kilian Veronica de Lacy.

August 8: Anne Edith Fry

August 9: Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce

August 10: Anthony John Smith and Vilma Elizabeth Smith.

August 15: Noella Mary-Emmaus Sheerin, and Michelle Anne Mary Higlett.

August 18: Marie Clare Manning

August 22: Laura Gertrud Moya, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Irene Patricia McAllister, Josette Elizabeth Wickens, Antoinette Gertrud Jenkins, Ruth Hedwig Huebner, Assunta Benedicta Aquilina, Wilfrid Ambrose Moon, Nereda Gertrud Blake.

August 24: Wendy Begu Fisher-Hudson

August 27: Kay Matilda Myers

August 29: Leslie Aidan Whittet, Susan Columba Marmion Lambert, Peter James Lambert-Brown.

August 31: Pamela Hannah Winter

**SOLEMN PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES:**

**Corpus Christi:** Sr. Agnes Manly

**Sacred Heart:** Sr. Antonia Curtis, and Sr. Maureen Therese Woodhouse.

July 11: Sr. Therese Gilmour, Sr. Mary Bernadette Sunarjo

August 6: Sr. Mary Veronica Chandler

August 23: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

MAY ETERNAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM AND MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

May 29: 1876: Sister Mary Ann Hogan

May 31: 1966: Sr. Mary Clare Bocher

June 2: 1924: Mother Austin Marum (the first Child of Mary in Australia). The ceremony was

held at our school. She and another twelve year old girl were accepted by the nuns

without payment.

June 2 1987: Sr. Marian Bourke  
June 4 1976: Sr. Mary Gertrude Flannery  
June 8 1905: Sr. Mary Scholastica Therry  
June 9 2011: Sr. Janice Robertson  
June 10 1973: Sr. Mary Bernard Bryant.  
June 13 1988: Sr. Miriam Murray  
June 16 1920: Sr. Mary Paul Fairland  
June 16 1932: Sr. Mary Stanislaus Egan  
June 18 1861: Sr. Mary Aloysius Shortall  
June 18 1980: Sr. Mary Audrey Bourke  
June 18 2008: Oblate John Anselm Jamieson  
June 22. 2011: Oblate Gabriele Angelica Harders  
June 23 1994: Oblate Clare Scholastica Empen  
June 23 2001: Oblate Dr. William Canice Hudson  
June 23. 2012: Oblate Jean Edmond Peter Antoine  
June 27 1972: Sr. Mary Bede Muschialli  
June 28 1894: Mother Mary Placid Loughnan  
June 29 1932: Mother Mary Justina Merewether  
July 2 1888: Sr. M. Elizabeth Dwyer,  
July 5 2008: Oblate Billie Jude Balson.  
July 10 1891: Sr. M. Bridget O'Sullivan  
July 15 1943: Sr. Mary Scholastica Sugrue  
July 15 1985: Sr. Mary Boniface McConnell  
July 19. 2009: Oblate Henning Maximilian Harders  
July 22. 2003: Sr. Marie Gregory Forster  
July 24 1952: Sr. Mary Ann Harrington  
August 9 1968: Mother M. Mildred Potts, Fourth Elected Prioress of our Community.  
August 11 1950: Sr. M. Annette Cunningham  
August 22 2012: Oblate Teresa Benedict Pozniak.  
August 24. 2006: Mother Benedicta Philips, first Abbess of the community.  
August 31 2005: Sr. Joy Reynolds

## SECTION SEVEN: SAINTS

From the wisdom of St. Isaac the Syrian:

“Those who give a hand to help their heighbours are helped by God’s own hand.”

## SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION

*“What gives the Rule [of Benedict] a finished perfection is usually designated its ‘discretion’. This word has a history and can be given several meanings. But there are at least two related ones that apply to the Benedictine Rule. The first is the original meaning of the word, the one which corresponds to the verb ‘discernere’ from which it is derived. This means to discern, i.e., to distinguish, to appreciate and to choose the right measure in everything, and to take the balanced decision that this measure demands. This is precisely what the author of the Rule does: he sets up a framework within which to live, an institution whose essential constitutive elements are firmly fixed. As far as details are concerned – the timetable, the division of the day between prayer and work, the quantity of food and drink and the quality of clothing – the legislator leaves to the superior a wide field for discretion, in other words, for initiative. He avoids trying to foresee all possible contingencies and trying to fix in advance what is to be done under every kind of climate and every circumstance; he is very careful not to stifle spiritual liberty by over-precise legislation. (Monasticism and St. Benedict, by Jean Leclercq, Monk of Clervaux Abbey, Luxemburg. Monastic Studies 1, Pentecost 1963, pages 9-23).*

There is much wisdom here! We can't set everything in cement. We try from time to time, but it does not work.